

## HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

### HUMAN SERVICES VISION FOR 2035

BELLEVUE IS A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

***Every member of the community has the opportunity to achieve their potential and enhance their quality of life. A system of human services assists people in times of need and invests in the development of healthy individuals and families.***

### MAJOR THEMES & DRIVERS

The Human Services Element sets policies that promote all community members having:

- Food to eat and a roof overhead
- Supportive relationships within families neighborhood and community
- A safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse
- Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible
- Education and job skills to lead an independent life

The City pursues these goals by planning and documenting human service needs, facilitating and funding community human service provision, and providing human services in cases where the City is the most appropriate service provider, or the provider of last resort.

Since 2004, the five community goal areas have not changed. Grants from the Human Service General Fund continue to be keyed to these goals, although the percentage of funding has shifted over time between the goal areas. Likewise, the City's role of facilitating, funding and in limited cases, providing direct human services, has not changed. What has changed over time is the scale of human services needs in the community and the increasing diversity of the community itself. Human service provision has become increasingly complex. Bellevue's role as a regional partner on the Eastside and in King County as a whole has become more pronounced in recent years with community campaigns such as the Committee to End Homelessness in King County and Eastside Pathways.

The element was reviewed by the Human Services Commission, in coordination with the Bellevue Network on Aging. The Human Services Commission and Planning Commission held a joint meeting in March 2013.

## **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

**Demographic Changes.** Consistent with the Council work program, new or edited policies are proposed to reflect the changes in city demographics, including needs related to seniors, public health and homelessness.

**Service Access Network.** A new policy supports creating a network of human service access points, geographically distributed within the city. This policy is recommended in light of the recent loss of several human service providers in the Downtown subarea. It supports finding ways to keep service providers in transit-rich areas such as Downtown and other parts of Bellevue with access to transit.

**Homelessness.** A proposed new policy encourages a coordinated local response to homelessness through the provision of housing and supportive services. The Human Services Commission sees homelessness as a focus of their future work and this policy supports their efforts to coordinate with others in the community. This policy should align with policies in the Housing Element that support production of affordable housing in Bellevue and production of housing specifically serving homeless individuals and families. (Policy HS-X2)

**Community health and human services.** A proposed new policy encourages the City to use its role to advance civil rights protection, community health, and other human service objectives. This new policy builds off an existing policy that encourages the city to consider human services impacts in regulatory and legislative decision making. (Policy HS-X3)

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- Any questions about what is recommended for change?
- Any additional information needed on this topic?
- Direction on specific changes/refinements to the draft policies?